

## Medicine in the Public Press

**The Greatest Word in the English Language**—"It isn't Love. It isn't Brotherhood. It isn't Friendship. It is a word that embodies the spirit and the meaning of all three of these words.

"The word is: Service," writes Edward W. Bok (World's Work). "Scale the word as you like, let it run the gamut of life in all its phases, from the lowest to the highest, and it holds its marvelous place in the lives of men. . . .

"Washington served, and in a moment of discouragement said he would rather be in his grave than endure further the vilification that came to him. But he rallied and served. Abraham Lincoln was the embodiment of service—service to a cause, service to a people. No darker days ever came to a man than those which came to him in his trying days of service. . . .

"Service seems thankless, yet nothing in the lives of men is so fruitful of the largest returns to the server. . . .

"Never was there a time when so many chances for service beckoned to a man to go out and do something for his fellowmen. It matters little *what* such a man does, so long as he does and serves. And in man's work in the world, love translates itself concretely in service. That is eternal, immortal. To serve others is to live forever. . . ."

And that is the only form of longevity worth serving for.

**Youth by Radiation**—Herman Rubin (Forum), said to be a Russian doctor of medicine, who has "had extraordinary success in the treatment of various endocrinological conditions by means of radiation," maintains that "by artificially ionizing the endocrine cells, and increased production of hormones is secured, and these hormones travel through the blood stream and reinvigorate the affected cells. When these are quickened to action the whole organism is refreshed, and we are on the road to rejuvenation. . . . Of the more than 100 causes of old age found in the medical books, there is not one cause that cannot be overcome by the radiendocrine treatment. For how long a period life can be extended, no one knows. It is sufficient for the present that, by reinvigorating the cell, we can turn back the hands of time."

So that's that.

"I'm Not Going to Die." "I'm Not Going to Die." "I'm Not Going to Die"—"Sing that to yourself day and night," says "Doctor" Alice Jewel in press dispatches, "and you will have found the secret of youth, and you will live to be 250 years old." It is said that "Doctor" Jewel, who is "an applied psychologist," has just returned from Europe, where she has confirmed her ideas about longevity. "My method of rejuvenation," says the "doctor," comes from within. We have the idea in our subconscious mind that we are going to die, so we do. My task is to teach people to forget that idea and to live for centuries."

"The 'Psychology' Season is With Us Again," says the San Francisco Examiner editorially, judging from the billboards.

"Where have the adepts in 'soul culture' and 'will power' and 'personality' been keeping themselves all summer?

"Wherever it is, they have been keeping themselves well. Some of them have a following in San Francisco that film stars might envy. Peddling to discouraged persons a few pages of Emerson, reduced to imbecility—perennially declaiming the same dime's worth of Orison Swett Marden's 'philosophy' to rapt applause—they bag enough loose change over the winter to keep them going at Palm Beach the delightful summer long.

"Anyway, it's better and safer than selling oil stock. But we prefer the old-time phrenology 'professor.' You

stepped into his carriage, and under the gasoline torch the 'professor' measured your skull with calipers.

"Bumps' have given way to 'complexes' and 'hollows' to 'inhibitions.' Too bad the old phrenologist didn't enrich his vocabulary in time. His soul goes marching on, even though his body seldom got to Palm Beach."

**Hay-eating Germs**—I hope you saw the intriguing press account of the wonderful discovery (?) of a hay-digesting germ. Cows are said to grow lazy while this germ digests hay for them. Let us hope it proves equally effective with spinach.

**Lip Wisdom as Applied to Infant-feeding**—Under this title a condensed milk company issues an amazing booklet which has caused various curious reactions among physicians. Although frankly an advertisement, this booklet attacks the "experimental theories among physicians." "In no field of clinical practice is such so-called 'wisdom' more conspicuous than in that which applies specifically to infant-feeding." The statement is made unqualifiedly that, regardless of all the propaganda against condensed milk, the use of these substances is on the increase, both as to the quantity of milk consumed and in the number of infants being fed on it.

Quite an astonishing line of advertising!

**"Heads They Win, Brains They Lose,"** says Uncle Henry (Collier's) in one of the most amusing of his imitable articles on problems of the day. Uncle Henry undertook to psychoanalyze his negro cook, Aunt Hepsy, having secured the tests from prominent universities, and among the questions asked he notes these:

How many corn flakes would it take to go round the world if placed end to end? The corn flakes, not the world. (a) On a calm day? (b) With the wind blowing.

In double entry, which is preferable? Give three reasons, reading left to right, no more than four being the same.

Pronounce umph backwards without rising on the balls of the feet or touching the doorpost, tibia, fibia, or uvula.

Is free verse high at the price? Give three examples starting with Z.

State the influence of mission furniture upon religious thought? In a word? In two words? Reverse the order.

What is taught by the home life of the caterpillar? Is the caterpillar, in your opinion, more influenced by heredity or environment, everything being equal or nearly so? What part is played by cultural lacks and bad associates?

Would you believe it, there wasn't a single question that she could answer. Same way respectin' deduction, reduction, an' ratiocination, an' even in observation she was a flop. She couldn't tell the number of bricks in a pavement she'd walked over every day for ten years, an', despite the times we've had prunes for breakfast, she'd never counted the wrinkles in one or noted whether they ran from north to south or diagonally, as the case may be, if at all. She had no idea of the number of feathers on a canary, an' was equally at a loss to tell whether a dog turns to the right or left before it lies down.

**Billions—Just for Fun**—In discussing the question of "fun" the American people work so hard to secure for themselves, Walter S. Hiatt (Collier's) gives us some rather startling figures:

The motion pictures report 20,000,000 daily admissions. County fairs each year attract about 40,000,000 persons. The circus fans number 12,000,000. There are 10,000,000 fishermen, 2,200,000 golfers, 1,000,000 cyclists, 10,000,000 card players, 20,000,000 radio fans, 12,000,000 automobilists (exclusive of guests). More than 6,000,000 persons dance each day. About 1,200,000 children daily use our playground centers. More than 19,000,000 persons participate annually in Y. M. C. A. recreations. All this fun costs us at least \$6,000,000,000 a year—half as much as all the war debts, including unpaid interest, that foreign nations owe us. What does it signify?

**New Birth Control Clinic**—According to newspaper stories, an organized effort is under way to establish birth control clinics in California. The announcement

does not state whether or not they will be "free." In any event, it is safe to predict that they will be popular. It is easy to predict that a lot of the people sloganizing about birth control will find out a lot that they did not know about the subject before. Dr. Dawson, physician to the king of Great Britain, certainly provided an opportunity for a new alignment of uplifters when he said, "Sex love aside from the duty of procreation should be defended. Marital abstinence is harmful."

**Science Captures and Imprisons a New Vitamin—** Under this headline, Max Bentley (Dearborn Independent) seems quite certain that "something happened recently to set scientific tongues wagging. The medical journals were full of it, but the lay world may have overlooked the modest announcement by Dr. Walter H. Eddy of Columbia University Teachers' College. The announcement was that he and his associate, Dr. R. R. Williams, of the Western Electric Research Laboratory, with the assistance of Dr. Ralph W. Kerr of Columbia had isolated—for the first time—had captured and imprisoned in a bottle, a pure D vitamin."

"Dr. Eddy," continues the author, "told me the story as we sat in his laboratory overlooking the beautiful university campus. It fell from his lips in simple words. Only when he suddenly reached into the lower left-hand pocket of his vest and produced a small phial containing six white crystals, with the offhand remark that 'These are pure vitamins,' was it realized that his narrative was an epic such as no man has had the right to speak before. The phial toppled over with a faint and musical clink and rolled erratically toward the edge of the desk. Four frantic hands made reach for it. Eddy, who recovered it, smiled in ghastly fashion as he stowed it away. The thing was priceless."

*Does this modest narrative suggest the advisability of insurance against accidents and carelessness by discoverers when handling their precious products?*

"The isolation of bios" concludes the author, "suggest marvelous possibilities for the transport of more foods, and better foods, in compressed form, to famine-stricken areas where fresh foods are not to be had. He, says Eddy, does not believe it is drawing the long bow of imagination to see a day when science will be able to spray a few milligrams of crystal vitamins into a few tons of 'dead' foods, and electrify the mass with life. Since vitamins A, B, C, and D can be put back into devitaminized milk, rice, potatoes and butter, and respectively, heal a sickly animal's sore eyes, cure beriberi and scurvy in man or beast, and bring new life to the child with rickets, will it not be possible some day to cure all diet-deficiency diseases simply through the discovery of new vitamins? Vitamin possibilities are enormous, but are they limitless?"

*Now who will dare say that a feature writer cannot make a scientific story attractive reading?*

**"Governor and U. C. Heads in Clash Over Vaccination,"** says a newspaper headline. It is reported that Public School Progressive League will use its influence to induce the authorities of the University of California to change their present attitude requiring vaccination against smallpox of all students to a regulation that would make protection against smallpox optional. It is said that the president and the regents of the university are very properly opposed to any change, but that the Governor of the state, who is ex-officio chairman of the board of regents, favors a change being made.

**Catching Up With Methuselah—**Since a vital statistician recently predicted the imminence of the 900-year span of life, several publications are beginning to wonder what we will do with the 845 years that are not included in our present scheme of life.

In commenting upon the matter, editorially, Collier's says: "One will play a few sets of tennis with one's great grandchildren every Saturday afternoon; one will romp around the campus on the century class reunion—if one wants to. And will one want to? Some folk tire of the game of living at seventy, sixty, even fifty. They beg to be excused. Francis Galton reported that the years after

eighty were the very pleasantest he had lived; and he was a trained scientific observer. Tastes differ, and above all they differ as to living. Let us have a few more centuries to look forward to, by all means."

**Sexual Experiences Among Educated Women—**The results of what has been characterized as the most "intimately naked survey" ever made, are now beginning to appear.

The Bureau of Social Hygiene some time ago started a controversy in the public press by the intimate character of a questionnaire they were sending out to women college graduates. A list of 10,000 names of *unmarried* women was prepared from the alumnae registers of women's colleges and co-educational institutes. Only those graduating during or before 1917 were included. A letter was sent to these 10,000 women, explaining what was being attempted and they were asked if they would fill out the questionnaire—*anonymously*, of course. Approximately 25 per cent of the 10,000 or 2515 agreed to supply the some ten pages of questions about their most intimate sex feelings and sex experiences. Actually, 1183 questionnaires were returned. Some of them were hardly clear upon all points, and 1000 of the most complete form the basis of a lengthy analysis by Katherine Davis (Mental Hygiene, July).

The findings show a somewhat higher incidence of sexual activity—normal and abnormal—than the figures usually quoted in medical literature and accepted by physicians. There are going to be a variety of reactions from this study and publication—some of them probably violent. Many, including most physicians, will feel as physicians always have felt, that such information would be better to have remained in the hands of those who deal with human frailties. Nature is raw, naked and primitive in many of her manifestations, and it is at least debatable whether or not the veil society drops over her upheavals should be rolled back for public gaze.

To physicians there is little of particular interest—and nothing surprising—in the long drawn out analysis of the results of this questionnaire. It sums itself up in the fact that, out of 1000 unmarried women graduated seven or more years ago, 892 admit in "confidential" written documents that they have indulged in: Masturbation, 603; had sexual intercourse, 105; indulged in homosexual experiences, 184. Sexual experiences of any kind was denied by 288; 53 declined to answer, and 25 tried all forms of sexual experiences.

One table in the article analyzes the combinations of the sexual experiences as:

Masturbation only .....	396
Sex intercourse only .....	12
Homosexual experiences only (with physical expression) .....	43
Both masturbation and homosexual experiences .....	115
Both masturbation and sex intercourse .....	67
Both sex intercourse and homosexual experiences .....	1
Masturbation, sex intercourse, and homosexual experiences .....	25
All these sex experiences denied .....	288
Questions relating to all these experiences unanswered ..	53

Part two of the report, to appear shortly, will deal with the sex experiences of married women.

## OBSTETRICIANS

Will doctors who are interested in obstetrics and gynecology please register with the secretary? Send name, address, and \$5 to the address below. This money will be used to defray the expenses of a stenographer for this section at the state meeting. It is also desired to secure a registry of men who are willing to assist in the program. This will greatly aid the program committee in arranging for the meetings.

JOHN W. SHERRICK, Secretary,  
350 Twenty-ninth Street, Oakland, Calif.

The educated individual is a leader, a thinker, a builder. The creative power with which he was endowed from the beginning has been released and put to work in the service of himself and his fellows. By his joy you shall know him.—Angelo Patri.